Applicant: Noriaki SAKAMOTO et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 10417-049001 / F51Serial No.: 09/678 142 124046M/SW

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REMARKS

Claims 6, 16, 38, 62, 64 and 76 are pending for further examination. Claim 64 is currently amended. Claim 76 is new.

Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing that claims 6, 16, 38, 62 and 64 include allowable subject matter. Applicant has added new independent claim 76 that recites the limitations of claim 64 and the limitations of claim 54 (now canceled) from which claim 64 depended. Claim 64 has been amended to depend from claim 16 alone. Accordingly, applicant asserts that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and that the claims should be allowed.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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The fee for the Petition for Extension of Time is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/19/2006

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